

Dear Fellow Impaired Citizens,

This is an excerpt of my 2-page letter so that I'll be able to read it in 3 minutes today. My friend Robert Taylor has copies of the full-length letter. I am a 60 year old member of the Disability Support Group of Clearlake, CA. My disability was caused by a spinal injury in 1979.

Please consider the following ideas and advocate them if you approve: (1) Sub-minimum wage jobs in sheltered workshops should be converted to fully paid jobs. (2) Minimum wages should be calibrated to actual housing and living costs. To achieve this we must work to reign in the current authoritarian plutocracy that's strangling the USA; and put an end to Privatization. It's a big job; so was the American Revolution and winning World War II. People worked together, and by God, it worked out. We can do it again!

(3) We should do away with Estate Recovery for SSI and Medi-Cal clients. Thousands of people like me were cheated, and now are penalized for being the victim of injustice with this onerous policy. It incentivizes the Medical System to overcharge, overmedicate and over-test the citizens of California; while relatively cheap, simple effective care and preventive services are under-utilized.

(4) We need state-wide standards for disability verification based on the BIC card and Medicare card. The BIC could have an "I" embossed on it for "Impaired". Greedy corporations and hard-hearted bureaucrats should not be allowed to use cockamamie standards to habitually cheat the needy with their prejudices against impairments. Why waste the huge amount the State already spends on evaluation and verification? It would be much more effective to just HELP EVERY PERSON MEET THEIR NEEDS.

Agencies like the Golden Gate Bridge District routinely gouge their customers. When they use the State of California's DMV records (OUR RECORDS) to accomplish their rip-off, at the same time ignoring Disability Placards and Disabled Person License Plates, it is SERIOUSLY CRIMINAL! What is the attorney general doing about it?

(5) Lets eliminate Medical Debt from the credit scoring system that routinely cheats low-income applicants, making home and car ownership beyond reach. Medical spending has sky-rocketed, yet we pay this extortion without expecting **any** practical results of generally improved health. NO HOME SHOULD EVER BE FORECLOSED DUE TO MEDICAL DEBT.

Many healthcare professionals are loving, caring people who make sacrifices for their patients. I'm not criticizing all healthcare; only that which requires confiscating homes and creates poverty. So let's do away with the labels that divide us. United we bargain, divided we beg! If programs and agencies don't help individuals become more capable and independent, we can change them; BUT LET'S KEEP THE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE. This State is composed of individuals, not corporations. Thanks for caring, Joe Tichenor-Clearlake 707-995-2521

Public Comment

Joe